ERIS

ENVIRONMENTAL RESTORATION INFORMATION SYSTEM

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQ's)

1. What is ERIS?

The Environmental Restoration Information System (ERIS), version 2.1.2 provides users real-time access to the central repository of restoration field data for U.S. Army installations.

ERIS succeeded the Installation Restoration Data Management System (IRDMIS) in 2001. It is based on the Department of Energy Environmental Management Electronic Data Deliverable Master Specification (DEEMS) format. ERIS also has a Geographical Information System (GIS) component. ERIS was initially deployed in November 2001.

2. Is the use of ERIS required?

Yes, under the Assistant Chief of Staff for Installation Management (ACSIM) "Policy on Electronic Storage of Environmental Restoration Data" (Feb. 17, 1999) and the "Implementation Guidance for the use of the Environmental Restoration Information System (ERIS)" memo (Nov. 12, 2003).

3. Who are the primary ERIS users?

ERIS is designed primarily for installation remediation project managers, engineers, chemists, geologists, geographers and environmental laboratories.

4. How does one sign up for ERIS?

Contact the USAEC Help Desk usaechelpdesk@aec.apgea.army.mil and ask for an ERIS User Account Request Form. You need to have a Requestor to sponsor you as an ERIS user. The Requestor must be a government employee. If you are a government employee, the Requestor should be your supervisor.

5. How does one login to ERIS?

Once your ERIS account is created, you will receive an e-mail notification with detailed information on how to access ERIS.

6. What data should be loaded into ERIS?

All validated results from environmental restoration fieldwork on U.S. Army installations should be loaded into ERIS.

7. How do I get my data into ERIS?

Users can enter data via the ERIS user interface data input screens or the ERIS "batch upload" function, which allows users to insert records in bulk.

8. What are the minimum requirements to batch upload chemical data into ERIS?

First, the sample location must be defined in the Geographical subsystem. This location name is then used in the batch upload data file as the parameter for LOCATION_NAME. The batch data file contains, at minimum, Header, Sample_and_Method, Analysis and Result record blocks.

9. Is there a data dictionary available for ERIS?

The ERIS Data Dictionary can be found in ERIS Help.

10. Are sample batch upload files available for ERIS?

Sample batch files available for the various ERIS subsystems through ERIS Help.

11. Must quality control (QC) data be loaded into ERIS?

Quality control data is not loaded into ERIS. The IRDMIS QC data has been archived and will be available for export by request only. Installations are advised to save their QC data locally if they want it for future use.

12. Can new items be added to the list of valid upload values and "pick-list" menus?

Submit a request to the USAEC Help Desk usaechelpdesk@aec.apgea.army.mil requesting to have the value or item added to the ERIS database. If the reference is:

- A Chemical Analyte: Provide the full Analyte name and Chemical Abstract Services (CAS#) number.

- A Laboratory: Provide the laboratory's name and address.

- An Analytical Method: Provide the standard EPA method name.

13. Why am I getting the error "[LOC_ID=] The Location ID is null or invalid?"

This could be related to two possible errors in the data file.

- First, check the "LOCATION_NAME" parameter in the data file. The value must exactly match what is currently in ERIS.

- Second, check the "LOCATION_ CATEGORY_CODE" parameter. View the Chemical Parser file from ERIS help and check the value used for this data element. The location category and name combination must match ERIS. If you have the correct name but a wrong category code, ERIS will not recognize the location.

14. Why am I seeing the error "Warning: The value Not Detected. is not valid for column name" or "Warning: The value Data is Rejected. is not valid for column name"?

These warnings are related to Lab Qualifiers and Validation Qualifiers. The data values for these parameters must be obtained from the valid values already stored in ERIS. To view those values, look at the "Chemical Parser.xls" file located in ERIS Help. The syntax (capitalization and punctuation) must follow the values in the Parser file exactly.

15. My original data file contained incorrect measurement units for results. How can I change the measurement units?

You can update the data by modifying the value in the data file and provide an explanation in the "AUDIT_COMMENT=" data parameter. ERIS will be updated to reflect the new value. This is true for all editable data elements in the ERIS system. You can also edit values manually through the user interface.

16. Why am I receiving Javascript errors?

This is due to a setting in Internet Explorer (IE). To turn javascript debugging off:

1.) From the IE main menu, select "Tools," then "Internet Options"

2.) Select the "Advanced" tab

3.) Under "Browsing", make sure the "Disable Script Debugging" option is checked.

17. How can I determine which data I have just batch uploaded into ERIS?

Look at the "Load Summary" and "Final Documentation" reports. They detail exactly what has been uploaded to ERIS.

18. Where can one find more information on ERIS?

Visit the ERIS section of the USAEC Homepage at: http://aec.army.mil/usaec/reporting/eris00.html.

19. Is ERIS training available?

ERIS training will be available every year at the Annual Environmental Training Symposium. Additional classes are conducted as necessary throughout the year. Contact the USAEC Help Desk for more details.

20. Who do I contact if I have questions while using ERIS?

You should contact the USAEC Help Desk usaechelpdesk@aec.apgea.army.mil Telephone (410) 436-1244, DSN 584-1244.